United Nations E/2010/34 (Part II) E/ICEF/2010/7 (Part II)

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 July 2010

Original: English

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its 2010 annual session*

(1-4 June 2010)

Contents

		Page
I.	Organization of the session	2
	A. Opening statements by the President and the Executive Director	2
	B. Adoption of the agenda	3
II.	Deliberations of the Executive Board	4
	A. Annual report of the Executive Director: progress and achievements in 2009 and report on the in-depth review of the medium-term strategic plan, 2006-2013	4
	B. Report on progress in the implementation of the management response to the gender policy evaluation	8
	C. Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation	10
	D. Update on the organizational improvement initiatives	19
	E. Reports of the field visits of the Executive Board	19
	F. Address by the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association	21
	G. Other matters	21
	H. Adoption of draft decisions	22
	I. Closing statements by the Executive Director and the President	22

* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its annual session (1-4 June 2010). The report on the first regular session (12-14 January 2010) was issued as E/2010/34 (Part I), and the report of the second regular session (7-9 September 2010) will be combined with E/2010/34 (Parts I and II) and issued in final form as *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement 14* (E/2010/34/Rev.1-E/ICEF/2010/7/Rev.1).

10-44100 (E) 220710

Please recycle

I. Organization of the session

A. Opening statements by the President and Executive Director

1. The President opened the session, welcoming Mr. Anthony Lake to the post of Executive Director, assumed on 1 May 2010. He noted that Mr. Lake had joined UNICEF at a time when the dedication and expertise of UNICEF were needed more than ever, especially in the context of global economic downturns, armed conflicts, natural disasters, food insecurity and climate change, in addition to widespread violations of the rights of children. In this regard, he said, it was particularly fitting that the session would feature a commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2. The President underscored the importance of the contribution of UNICEF to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which are closely linked to the mandate of UNICEF. He called upon delegations to be actively involved in the Special Event on Children's Issues and the Millennium Development Goals being organized during the High-level Plenary Meeting from 20 to 22 September 2010. After noting the key items on the agenda, the President highlighted the importance of partnerships to UNICEF, including collaboration with other United Nations organizations, the private sector and civil society. He reiterated that, although UNICEF had been doing an excellent job, the challenges were still enormous and daunting. He underscored the importance of the work of National Committees for UNICEF.

3. The Executive Director in his opening statement thanked the President and delegations for the welcome extended, saying that serving as the Executive Director was both a great honour and great responsibility. He praised the staff of UNICEF for their courage and commitment. Protecting the rights of children was the core mandate of UNICEF and he was committed to ensuring that UNICEF would do everything possible to fulfil the rights of every child. He emphasized that the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child were more than commemorative markers — they were a daily "call to action".

4. While noting significant progress made by UNICEF and its partners on behalf of children in the last several decades, the Executive Director said that it was imperative to take action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals with equity. The challenges ahead were severe. Data showed widening rifts between rich and poor countries and disparities within nations. These injustices were exacerbated by the global economic crisis, natural disasters and the worst effects of climate change — all of which affected those least able to bear them. Added to these difficulties was the fact that girls, indigenous people and children with disabilities face special discrimination. Children living in conflict-filled countries and chronic emergency situations had special needs that require attention. All these children are the "forgotten children", marginalized because of the economic and social inequities in their societies and left behind because they were born female, poor or in the wrong place.

5. It was crucial to go beyond statistical averaging and use disaggregated data in order to focus efforts on children and communities in greatest need. The bottom quintile of society had to become the world's top priority. This will entail

overcoming systemic, structural and cultural barriers to achieving sustainable change in the poorest of communities.

6. The commitment to accomplish this, he said, lay at the core of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and at the heart of the history, mission and mandate of UNICEF. Indeed, the medium-term strategic plan directed UNICEF to focus "resources, attention and assistance on the poorest, most vulnerable, excluded, discriminated and marginalized groups". Focusing on the forgotten children was a moral imperative with practical implications. It was the best way to achieve the key initiatives of UNICEF, which link to the Millennium Development Goals. The best way to build public support for meeting the Goals was to put a human face on the effort — the face of a child.

7. UNICEF will support this effort in at least five ways:

(a) Make better use of high-quality data generated by UNICEF, disaggregated to allow for the identification and targeted addressing of disparities;

(b) Assist governments in building their own capacities to overcome systemic deficiencies and to address underlying causes of inequities;

(c) Make sure that children in countries facing the worst difficulties — chronic emergencies and other fragile situations — are not further marginalized;

(d) Invest further effort in making UNICEF even more results-focused and improve the ability of country programmes to develop integrated cross-sectoral community interventions, for example, by investing more in education;

(e) Improve efficiencies and accountability across all functions, from performance management and talent development to strategic communications and decision-making.

8. This focus will involve close work with colleagues in National Committees and with a broad array of partners, including with United Nations partners in joint programming and "delivering as one". In all these efforts, UNICEF will act on the principle of comparative advantage.

9. The Executive Director concluded by saying that focusing on achieving sustainable progress for the forgotten children of the world is a work in progress. In order to ensure its success, UNICEF will rely on the support and wisdom of the Executive Board and partners in the years ahead.

B. Adoption of the agenda

10. The President noted that a draft decision prepared by the secretariat to respond to the request made by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to present a common country programme document to the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP would be considered during the session. The Executive Board adopted the agenda, timetable and organization of work (E/ICEF/2010/8) of the session.

11. In accordance with rule 50.2 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary of the Executive Board announced that credentials had been submitted by 40 observer delegations, 1 United Nations body, 1 intergovernmental organization, the Standing Group of National Committees for UNICEF and 3 non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

II. Deliberations of the Executive Board

A. Annual report of the Executive Director: progress and achievements in 2009 and report on the in-depth review of the medium-term strategic plan, 2006-2013 (agenda item 3)

12. The Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Saad Houry, introduced the report (E/ICEF/2010/9 and Corr.1) and the updated annexes to the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) (E/ICEF/2010/10). He emphasized that in order to achieve equitable and sustainable progress, UNICEF and its partners had to focus on the bottom quintile of society and the forgotten children. The Director, Policy and Practice then presented highlights of the annual report for 2009 and the report on the in-depth review, which showed progress and challenges in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

13. In their interventions under this agenda item, a number of delegations took the opportunity to welcome Mr. Anthony Lake as the new Executive Director of UNICEF, praising him for his expertise and dedication to the cause of children.

14. Echoing the words of the Executive Director, several delegations urged UNICEF to focus on the bottom quintile and forgotten children in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 with equity in a sustainable manner. This, they said, was a moral and pragmatic imperative. They reiterated a central message in the annual report — that the rights of children are at the heart of the Goals. Speakers emphasized the interconnected nature of the Goals and the cross-cutting approaches necessary to achieve them. One delegation suggested that environmental sustainability should have been included as a cross-cutting area.

15. Delegations praised UNICEF for better reporting on results in the annual report and data companion while suggesting further improvements. These included the following: a clearer indication of progress made against the plan and of the value added by UNICEF to the results achieved, a more discrete separation of the annual report and in-depth review of the MTSP, a closer link between the annual report and its data companion, a better reflection of the work of UNICEF with partners in the field, and the inclusion of a succinct statement of the future priority issues of the organization. Delegations welcomed the emphasis on the human rights-based approach and the inclusion of lessons learned and future directions under each focus area. UNICEF was encouraged to align country programmes more closely with national priorities and to improve monitoring and evaluation. A few delegations inquired why UNICEF had not completed all its planned evaluations.

16. It was recommended that UNICEF devote more attention to several priorities. These included nutrition and hunger, maternal and newborn health, education, child protection, HIV and children, gender equality, evaluations, national capacity development, South-South cooperation, and United Nations system-wide coherence. It was important, delegations said, to back the campaign launched by the Secretary-General for universal ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child by 2012. Regarding resources, it was necessary to increase support to the least developed countries. Moreover, donors should be encouraged to honour their commitments to allocate 0.7 per cent of their annual gross domestic product to development programmes in developing countries.

17. Support was expressed for the efforts of UNICEF to strengthen basic social services in countries with the highest burden of child and maternal death and disease, reaching out to the excluded, the poorest and the most vulnerable. A number of speakers underscored the fact that much more progress needs to be made to reach the Goals related to health, especially maternal and child health, nutrition and hunger. It was recommended that UNICEF take a more comprehensive, less disease-specific, approach to improve the delivery of health services through measures to strengthen health systems and maternal and child health. UNICEF should support the provision of policy frameworks and guidelines on expanding community-based treatment of cholera, malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia, with an emphasis on sustainability.

18. It was also recommended that UNICEF work with H4 (Health 4) agencies to implement the H4 workplan and provide the leadership required to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 by 2015. Additional information was requested on the role of UNICEF in this partnership, and the Executive Director was requested to set out his vision for the engagement of UNICEF on this issue.

19. One speaker welcomed the leading role of UNICEF in the Sanitation and Water for All initiative in "off-track" and fragile States. Two delegations requested that UNICEF support the Joint Action Plan to Improve the Health of Women and Children presented as a draft in 2010 at the World Health Assembly in Geneva. Additional information was requested on innovative financing for health systems and the H8 (Health 8) Forum.

20. Delegations took stock of the remarkable progress made in education, praising UNICEF for its strong gender and human rights approach. Further efforts were needed, in particular, to improve the quality of education and overcome persistent inequalities associated with gender, language, ethnicity and disability. Delegations recommended that UNICEF give more emphasis to early childhood development and early learning, the mainstreaming of child-friendly schools, paying attention to the needs of children with disabilities, and school feeding programmes.

21. Delegations noted significant progress made in child protection while calling upon UNICEF to strengthen this area, welcoming a systems, rather than a project, approach. Delegations called for increased support, in particular, for prevention of child labour, harmful practices, sexual exploitation and child trafficking, including during humanitarian emergencies. It was essential, they said, to ensure that child protection was provided with adequate resources, leadership, knowledge, data and research. These would serve to diminish the hurdles of low capacity, scarce resources and limited harmonization and coordination among donors. The NGO Committee on UNICEF Working Group on Children said that the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children without Parental Care, welcomed by the General Assembly in 2009, should be used as a complementary framework to the goals of the MTSP.

22. In the area of HIV/AIDS and children, important advances were noted, as well as several challenges: the increase in infections among children under 15, the need for more coverage of antiretroviral treatment and associated funding, the fact that too many young people have little or no knowledge about prevention, and the effect of the global economic crisis on the access of newly diagnosed individuals to treatment. UNICEF was also commended for the scale-up of activities in sexual and reproductive health and rights for adolescents, in collaboration with United Nations

agencies, NGOs and other partners. One delegation cautioned that HIV/AIDS education for children and adolescents should be age-appropriate.

23. One delegation requested UNICEF to work closely with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, both at the upstream policy and country levels, and to maintain a high level of accountability when acting as principal recipient. UNICEF was also requested to allocate more resources to the focus area of HIV/AIDS and children.

24. Another priority keenly emphasized was UNICEF action in humanitarian response, including education in emergencies. Praise was given to UNICEF for its humanitarian response in Haiti and other crisis situations. UNICEF was encouraged to more effectively communicate achievements in humanitarian action as contributions to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals and to better promote its comparative advantage in its double role as a humanitarian and development actor. One delegation promised support for the efforts of UNICEF in combating sexual violence in armed conflict and in implementing Security Council resolution 1882 (2009). Delegations welcomed UNICEF efforts to coherently address the continuum from disaster preparedness to humanitarian response to early recovery, and requested that disaster risk reduction be integrated into all areas of programming. UNICEF was asked to share best practices and lessons learned regarding support given to fragile States and conflict-affected countries for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Strong support was expressed for uninterrupted education of children in emergencies and post-conflict zones, with education to include the building of respect, tolerance and trust among children.

25. It was recognized that the implementation of the cluster lead system had brought about a distinct improvement in the international response to humanitarian crises. UNICEF was requested to remain actively engaged in improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian aid, including through building its capacity as a cluster lead. The organization was praised for its leadership role in three clusters — nutrition, water and sanitation, and education — and its role as focal point for child protection and preventing gender-based violence. It was recommended that UNICEF focus on educating all sides in a conflict and all actors, on the rights of children and women.

26. A request was made for progress to continue on common needs assessment with other actors. One delegation commended UNICEF for progress made on mainstreaming global cluster coordinator posts into regular resourcing. The delegation also expressed concern that in some cases UNICEF staff members seemed unclear of their roles and responsibilities and recommended that the Executive Director take a leadership role in reminding staff members of their responsibilities as cluster leads.

27. Several delegations praised UNICEF for considerable efforts made to mainstream gender equality in its work. Delegations called upon the organization to actively pursue the mainstreaming of gender issues at the headquarters, regional and country levels, to ensure appropriate funding, and to better integrate gender issues in the annual report. One speaker, noting the increased percentage of country offices performing gender assessments, underscored that all country programmes must address gender issues. UNICEF was encouraged to swiftly implement the gender Strategic Priority Action Plan, especially at the country level and to continue supporting the collection of gender-disaggregated data.

28. Delegations praised UNICEF for its support for system-wide coherence and "delivering as one". One speaker, however, said that UNICEF sometimes gave the impression of being less committed to system-wide coherence than was expected and recommended further implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. It would be important to further harmonize methodology, in particular for the resource management system or enterprise resource planning. UNICEF was encouraged to implement the International Public Sector Accounting Standards on time and within budget and to fully implement the "firewall" agreement, regularly informing the Executive Board on progress and constraints in this endeavour.

29. One speaker expressed support for the request of the United Republic of Tanzania to present a common country programme document, and another called for the support of the implementation by Ethiopia of "delivering as one" as a "self-starter" country.

30. The same delegation said that the formula for the allocation of UNICEF regular (core) resources needed to provide more flexibility to UNICEF to invest in strategic priorities, in particular to increase staff capacity for coordination mechanisms and clusters. Several other delegations appealed to donors to increase the proportion of regular resources given to UNICEF.

31. Another delegation said that it was essential for UNICEF to establish a research function, appointing a new director for the function and assuring its independence. UNICEF was recognized for its knowledge base on emerging issues and the work of the Innocenti Research Centre.

32. A number of speakers expressed strong support for intensifying UNICEF efforts in national capacity development, especially in policy development, data collection and monitoring and evaluation. In middle-income countries, these efforts should also focus on leveraging the financial capacity and technical skills of national partners.

33. On a more general note, one delegation urged UNICEF to "revitalize" the Executive Board and engage more intently with Board members on strategic issues, particularly during preparations for the new strategic plan, which starts in 2014.

34. The secretariat responded that comments of delegations would be helpful in improving future results-based reporting. Information and comments were given on a number of issues raised. These included: the number of evaluations completed by UNICEF, how programme priorities were developed with countries, the added value of UNICEF to achieving results in malaria prevention and other areas of work, and how UNICEF works with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The secretariat emphasized the support of UNICEF for communities coping with the effects of climate change, UNICEF work in promoting school attendance and education equality and equity, UNICEF support for children with disabilities, and plans to increase financial and human resources for child protection and the strengthening of data collection in that area. In the area of HIV/AIDS, the secretariat emphasized the vulnerability of girls and women and UNICEF efforts to better integrate the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV into health and other services and to link it with efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5. UNICEF was working with partners towards eliminating the

transmission of HIV from mother to child by 2015 or sooner. The secretariat noted with appreciation the strong support of delegations for the work of UNICEF in humanitarian situations, reiterated the unwavering commitment of UNICEF to gender equality, and underscored the need to focus on Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 1 (c). It was emphasized that UNICEF would aim to ensure that no children were forgotten in achievement of the Goals.

35. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/6 (see the compendium of decisions E/ICEF/2010/14).

B. Report on progress in the implementation of the management response to the gender policy evaluation (agenda item 4)

36. The Executive Board had before it documents E/ICEF/2010/11 and E/ICEF/2010/12. The agenda item was introduced by the Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Saad Houry, and presented by the Principal Advisor, Gender.

37. Delegations expressed appreciation for the management response to the gender policy evaluation and thanked the Executive Director for demonstrating strong support for gender equality. Many welcomed the gender equality policy, entitled "Working for an equal future: UNICEF policy on gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women". The policy was viewed as an important step, given the centrality of gender equality for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Several delegations said they looked forward to seeing the Strategic Priority Action Plan to implement the policy. One delegation stated that the new policy should be regularly reviewed, so that it could feed into the new medium-term strategic plan.

38. Some delegations, noting that placing gender equality at the core of UNICEF work required sustained commitment, capacity development and resources, said that they would have liked to have had more time to review the new policy ahead of the Executive Board session. Some encouraged UNICEF to be clearer in its definition of gender mainstreaming as an implementation strategy, requesting further information on the use of the gender marker in monitoring. Others indicated that they wished to see more information on results in the field, showing the impact on children's lives, and obstacles toward achieving results. Several delegations requested to be kept informed on challenges and best practices.

39. Many delegations stressed that establishing solid accountability mechanisms was crucial to the successful implementation of the gender policy, while some urged UNICEF to ensure that sufficient resources, including staff capacity in the regional offices, were made available for building capacity in monitoring and evaluation. It was crucial to track expenditure, including through use of a gender marker, and to continue to invest in technical capacity and accountability mechanisms, which would ensure momentum and sustainability.

40. Delegations further welcomed the cooperation of UNICEF with other United Nations agencies, stating that inter-agency initiatives would increase coherence and effectiveness within the United Nations system. Several delegations noted that the recent establishment of a new gender entity would assist UNICEF in its efforts to build capacity and expertise for gender mainstreaming, as it was important to draw from as wide as possible a pool of expertise in formulating responses to gender

issues. One delegation said that achieving gender equality in programme countries should be incremental, based on the realities of the country and its cultural traditions, while another delegation said that UNICEF could play a key role in ensuring the success of the new gender entity.

41. Several delegations noted that gender equality and empowerment of women was not only important in its own right but also central to the UNICEF mandate and key to achieving results in operational activities. Others urged UNICEF to accelerate its efforts in reporting on gender equality results, including the collection of sex-disaggregated data, particularly at the country level. Some delegations took note of the focus on boys and men in advancing gender equality and stated they would like to see a stronger focus on this dimension in programming, monitoring and evaluation, particularly in efforts to combat gender-based violence. One delegation encouraged UNICEF to pay particular attention to adolescent girls and their rights, including sexual and reproductive rights.

42. In response, the Director, Policy and Practice, noted the centrality of the new gender policy to the UNICEF country programmes of cooperation, which in turn support gender equality results. He stated that one of the primary means of strengthening UNICEF work at the country level was through a strong focus on gender reviews and evaluations. He stressed that the central test whether UNICEF was becoming an organization of excellence in promoting gender equality and the rights of women and girls would be whether it helped to advance gender equality results through country programmes of cooperation.

43. In response to specific questions, he noted that considerable work remained in rolling out the gender policy and that UNICEF sometimes faced challenges in identifying and resourcing the appropriate gender expertise. He reported that the organization was piloting the gender marker in 2010 and hoped to implement it throughout UNICEF in 2011. The implementation of the gender policy, he confirmed, would be based on respect for country realities.

44. In future reports and evaluations, he explained, there would be a strong focus on the organization's work in gender equality. He noted that the Gender Equality Task Force was now primarily pursuing the implementation of the Strategic Priority Action Plan. He stressed that after strengthening internal mechanisms of policy and practice for gender equality, UNICEF now expects to see stronger results in the field.

45. The Principal Advisor noted that the operational guidance notes being developed had a strong focus on engaging boys and men in advancing gender equality, and were part of UNICEF efforts to improve the quality of programming, as were joint pilot initiatives to use disaggregated data in the design and implementation of humanitarian emergency responses.

46. The Executive Director said he welcomed the very strong push by the Executive Board on gender equality and reiterated that it was integral to the organization's achievement of results in its programmes. UNICEF had made progress in achieving a gender balance in its staffing but it was important to ensure that this was reflected in the upper levels of the organization.

47. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/7 (see compendium of decisions E/ICEF/2010/14).

C. Proposals for UNICEF programme cooperation (agenda item 5)

(a) Draft area and country programme documents

48. The Vice-President announced that, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2008/17, the Executive Board was informed of the reasons for deferment of the presentation of six draft country programme documents from the annual session to the second regular session, as listed in documents E/ICEF/2010/CRP.10 and E/ICEF/2010/CRP.10/Corr.1. The summary matrix for each document had been posted on the UNICEF website. Also available on the website were the consolidated results and performance data for the previous programme cycles.

East Asia and the Pacific

49. The Regional Director provided an overview of the five draft country programme documents before the Executive Board: Cambodia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Myanmar (E/ICEF/2010/P/L.7 through E/ICEF/2010/P/L.11).

50. The representative of Cambodia stated that his Government fully supported the country programme, as it would contribute significantly to national development plan goals in health, nutrition and education, which are critical to achieving the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals.

51. The representative of China stated that his Government appreciated the work of UNICEF and was ready to fully cooperate in joint efforts for Chinese children. The new country programme would maintain an emphasis on health, education and gender equality but also extend cooperation on policy reforms and protection of vulnerable groups as well as climate change, in line with the Government's development priorities for children. It would also continue to deepen cooperation on the early achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in China.

52. The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted that the new country programme built on the lessons learned during the previous programme period, reflecting national priorities established in many consultations between UNICEF and national authorities. Progress had been made in child health, education and access to safe water and sanitation, as well as improved nutrition and immunization, contributing substantially to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The new country programme aimed to continue leveraging international support in nutrition, health care, water and sanitation and education for the benefit of the country's children.

53. The representative of Malaysia noted that while his country had achieved economic growth and progress in realizing children's rights, challenges remained in improving data, capacity and resources for children and quality social services for all. UNICEF technical expertise was needed to overcome those challenges, he said. With the removal of obstacles in private sector fundraising, UNICEF efforts had shown encouraging results for the comprehensive strategy in corporate engagement beyond fundraising. The Government's policy of inclusiveness had renewed interest in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, leading to efforts to remove reservations to the Convention. He stated that his Government envisioned using savings from reductions in discretionary spending to expand social safety nets for the vulnerable.

54. The representative of Myanmar expressed appreciation for the close cooperation of UNICEF with government agencies, contributing to national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, particularly for children and women. Immunization efforts had made great strides with the valuable support of UNICEF. He also expressed his Government's appreciation for UNICEF humanitarian relief and recovery efforts after Cyclone Nargis struck in 2008, noting that UNICEF continued to work closely with relevant agencies in supporting long-term reconstruction. The new country programme, he said, was developed in close consultation with government partners, in line with the Myanmar national development plan, and aimed to contribute in the priority areas of child and maternal health, basic education, child protection, and water and sanitation.

55. Several delegations who contribute to the UNICEF education programme in Myanmar through the multi-donor education fund noted that they were actively considering the priorities, objectives and modalities of future funding to the education sector, and stated their interest in seeing that lessons learned during the previous programme had been taken into account in planning the new programme. They encouraged UNICEF to explore better mechanisms for collaboration and coordination with United Nations and other partners in education.

56. Two delegations commented on the country programme for Cambodia, expressing their concern over the alleged mistreatment of children in detention and rehabilitation centres in the country. One delegation, which partners with UNICEF in Cambodia, encouraged UNICEF to strengthen its engagement with partners in the field. Noting that work in child protection was key to fulfilling the rights of the child, the delegation welcomed UNICEF work with children with disabilities in Cambodia. The country programme could better integrate gender equality and a rights-based approach.

57. Four delegations commented on the proposed country programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, with three delegations noting that in order to ensure that the humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups in the country be efficient and effective, it was critical to thoroughly and rigorously monitor implementation of the programme. Another delegation noted that the comparative advantage of UNICEF contributed to the focus of the country programme on child welfare and the protection of children with special needs.

58. Three delegations commented on the country programme for China, noting the country's successes in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly linked to children's health. One recognized the significant achievements in early education for girls and boys but urged continued attention on balancing the quality of education between urban and rural areas. He said his Government supported the efforts of China to provide better protection for children and to expand access to health care and social infrastructure facilities for children, as well as nutrition and safe drinking water. Another delegation stressed that it was important that the country programme focus on supporting vulnerable groups and strengthening social protection. One delegation applauded UNICEF collaboration with the Chinese Government in vaccination efforts against Hepatitis B and on HIV/AIDS. He noted the scale-up of UNICEF prevention programmes, calling it a positive example of leveraging pilots to scale.

59. The Regional Director thanked the delegations for their great interest in and endorsement of the five country programmes. She stated that she had taken careful

note of all comments, including those on strengthening education, monitoring and evaluation, as well as juvenile detention and rehabilitation. She stressed the importance of programme monitoring in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, citing an extensive monitoring and evaluation plan for the malaria and tuberculosis programme as an example.

60. In response to the comments on monitoring, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reassured the members of the Executive Board that his Government would provide full cooperation, including in field monitoring, so that programme activities could be implemented satisfactorily.

61. In conclusion, the Regional Director noted that despite progress being made in the region, child protection continues to grow as a priority. The Executive Director added that he agreed that UNICEF needed to work closely together with partners on child protection in the future.

Eastern and Southern Africa

62. The Regional Director presented an overview of the draft country programme document for Swaziland, as contained in document E/ICEF/2010/P/L.12. No delegation took the floor.

Middle East and North Africa

63. The Regional Director provided an overview of the draft CPD for Iraq (E/ICEF/2010/P/L.13) and the draft area programme document for Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Syrian Arab Republic (E/ICEF/2010/P/L.14).

64. The representative of Iraq expressed appreciation to UNICEF for its role on the ground. The representative noted that the Iraqi authorities had sent comments on the document to UNICEF, requesting that they be considered. The representative summarized the comments, noting concerns of the Government regarding references in the document to the political situation, the term "insecurity", the mental health of women and children and to the indication that achievement of Millennium Development Goals, the Education for All goals and the goals of *A World Fit for Children* were at risk. The representative also cited concerns regarding the data and said that the document did not reflect the changes made in Iraq.

65. The representative of Palestine said that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory had deteriorated to a critical phase and required urgent attention by the international community. The UNICEF focus on supporting the Palestinian Authority, in partnership with the United Nations country team, was welcomed, as was the programme strategy designed to respond to the humanitarian needs and maximize opportunities for development. The representative asked for clarification and rewording of some of the terms used in the draft area programme document. Detailed observations would be shared with UNICEF for the revised document.

66. The representative of Jordan underlined the deterioration of living conditions in the region, which had negatively impacted the situation of children and women who are refugees from Palestine. Increased assistance should be given to UNICEF and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). International, regional and national entities needed to work together

to assist Palestinian children through a broad range of measures, including a project to combat child labour with the Ministry of Labour in Jordan. Jordan had drafted a national plan for children, which will serve as a framework for action for children.

67. The representative of Lebanon said that the deteriorating situation in Gaza highlighted the suffering that the blockade had inflicted on civilians, especially children. The Government had taken several measures to improve the situation of Palestinians living in Lebanon and had been working with UNRWA and the Palestinian representative in Lebanon and the donor community to help to reconstruct the Nahr-al-Bared refugee camp following the 2007 crisis. More resources were needed. Lebanon was committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, with the support of UNICEF, and to providing for the well-being of Palestinian children.

68. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic said that it was hoped that UNICEF programme support to children in the region would help to achieve the internationally agreed objectives in support of the Palestinian people who live under occupation and benefit Palestinians in other countries. The delegation had submitted detailed written comments to UNICEF on the draft area programme document. It was noted that the language employed in the document did not adequately reflect the situation on the ground.

69. One delegation called for close coordination among UNICEF and other members of the United Nations country team and said that attention needed to be focused on children in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The delegation inquired about the obstacles being encountered by the United Nations country team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

70. Other delegations called for support for Palestinian children and women in the area covered by the programme and for enhanced coordination of the United Nations agencies, emphasizing the assistance needed to prioritize the ignored and forgotten children. One speaker commended UNICEF for the focus on child protection and adolescents, emergency preparedness, and capacity-building and requested that the organization play a more active advocacy role in addressing the issue of humanitarian access. The speaker suggested several ways to improve the education component of the programme.

71. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for their comments. He said that UNICEF associated itself with the statement by the Secretary-General and by Sir John Holmes on the current situation. The population suffering hardships in Gaza deserved support from the international community.

72. The Regional Director expressed appreciation for the comments shared. She took note of the concerns on use of appropriate language regarding the political and security situation and on the data in the draft CPD for Iraq. Regarding the draft area programme document for Palestinian children and women, she said that the document had been developed through a consultative process. There were opportunities to amend and refine the language; UNICEF would make sure that the revised document had the full support of delegations. Noting the comments on the data gaps in the document, she said that the data had been gathered through a credible source but that more could be done to focus on specific areas, including East Jerusalem. Responding to a comment on the programme addressing violence in schools, she clarified that the violence and conditions in the schools were not solely

due to conflict and that the programme follows a regional approach. She described some of the obstacles faced by the United Nations country team and noted that UNICEF worked very closely with United Nations and other partners. Referring to the comment on the education programme, she noted that all staff members are trained in cluster coordination and education and that a primary focus should be on capacity-building and not direct implementation.

Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

73. The Regional Director provided an overview of the five draft CPDs before the Executive Board: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Serbia and Turkey (E/ICEF/2010/P/L.2 through E/ICEF/2010/P/L.6, including E/ICEF/2010/P/L.5/Add.1).

74. The representative of Belarus commented that the draft CPD was closely linked to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2011-2015. Particular emphasis had been given to the following areas: preventing the breakdown of families and preventing violence against children, assisting the psychosocial development of children with special needs, ensuring gender equality and addressing HIV/AIDS. Also important, he noted, was the attention paid to ensuring the well-being of children living in areas that suffered from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. In the country programme, UNICEF will support national efforts to achieve tangible results for children and carry out monitoring and evaluation activities. The representative highlighted the relatively low level of "other resources" (non-core) financing indicated for the programme and recommended that the CPD should consider in detail how UNICEF and the donor community can address the needs and challenges of middle-income countries.

75. The representative of Azerbaijan said that because of unprecedented economic growth in his country, funding had been given to policy measures aimed at poverty reduction and achievement of other Millennium Development Goals. The State programme on socio-economic development for 2008-2013 aims to ensure that economic benefits reach beyond the capital to the rest of the country. Spending increased for health and education. The Government has taken measures to reduce infant and child mortality, combat HIV/AIDS, support deinstitutionalization and alternative care, and reform education. The country faced several challenges, among which is the large number of internally displaced persons and refugees resulting from conflict with Armenia. The representative requested that politically sensitive references used in the text conform to United Nations language.

76. The representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan exchanged views regarding references to unresolved conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

77. The representative of Serbia said that the programme of cooperation will aim to promote the well-being of children as well as partnerships advancing the rights of children — in particular, vulnerable groups of children, including those who are Roma, refugee and internally displaced, without parental care, disabled, and from rural areas. Challenges included the fiscal tightening that resulted from the global economic and financial crisis and the large number of refugees and internally displaced persons who have been in protracted displacement for more than a decade. Further efforts were needed to create sustainable and durable solutions for these populations, including safe return. The delegation would have liked to see a more detailed evaluation of the situation in Kosovo and an indication of future activities

there. It was recommended that in planning its activities, UNICEF take into account recent recommendations and conclusions of the United Nations bodies regarding the situation of human rights in the province, particularly those of children from minority communities. It was important to maintain the open and transparent cooperation of UNICEF field presences in Serbia with all relevant ministries, as well as provincial and local authorities, including international presences in the province of Kosovo and Metohija. It was also essential to promote greater coherence and coordination of the various United Nations agencies within the country team, including other international presences in Serbia. The representative said that it was expected that the revised CPD for Serbia would follow the format of the CPD for 2005-2009.

78. The representative of Georgia commented that the draft CPD accurately reflected the main challenges and achievements and sphere of cooperation in areas of juvenile justice and education, including preschool. The representative said that the results-based approach should be used to determine how to address persistent challenges, noting that the 2008 conflict in Georgia had severe consequences for the population, including internal displacement. More explicit description would be welcomed on how UNICEF will further support social inclusion of internally displaced children. It would be appreciated if UNICEF engaged in more proactive participation, including both practical and financial support, to improve the water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and the ensuring of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene, especially in new settlements for the internally displaced. In this regard, the Ministry of Refugees is ready to actively cooperate to achieve mutual goals.

79. The representative of Turkey cited progress made towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the national Ninth Development Plan and fulfilment of the rights of children and women. Nevertheless, geographical, economic and cultural disparities need to be addressed. The Government has embarked upon important initiatives, especially in primary education and reform of the child protection system. The draft CPD for 2011-2015 supports the aims of the Government in emphasizing disparity reduction, social inclusion and protection of children and youth.

80. One delegation emphasized the importance of the UNICEF presence in middle-income countries and commended the strategies of UNICEF in this regard. Referring to the draft CPD for Georgia, the delegation, while expressing overall concern for the situation of children in that country, said that the document did not cover South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and called upon UNICEF to utilize a pragmatic approach in search of appropriate and feasible formats to cooperate with authorities there. A concern was expressed about the use of some terms in the document.

81. Another delegation, commenting on the draft CPD for Serbia, commended the emphasis on systems strengthening, multisectoral approaches and social accountability and encouraged UNICEF to share with its partners information on progress made and challenges faced in these areas.

82. Several delegations said that the programme in Belarus served as a good example of how UNICEF can work in middle-income countries and called for additional other resources to be raised for the country.

83. The Regional Director thanked the delegations for their comments and very positive assessments of the draft country programme documents. Noting concerns expressed regarding the use of certain terms, he said that UNICEF would be guided by the most relevant General Assembly and other United Nations documents. Some issues would need to be addressed in the revision process. Responding to the question about the other resources ceiling in the draft CPD for Belarus, he explained that the ceiling was indicative and could be increased at any time during the duration of the country programme. Regarding the draft CPD for Azerbaijan, the Regional Director said that it was encouraging to see the commitment of the Government to continuing its investment in health and education and to improving the situation of the many internally displaced people in the country. He welcomed the comments regarding the emphasis on marginalized groups in Serbia, be they refugees, internally displaced persons, or disabled children. He said that UNICEF would carefully review the comments of Serbia regarding the format of the draft CPD and would address them in the revision of the document, taking account of the views of the Executive Board as a whole. He also welcomed the comments on progress made in Georgia, and said that issues regarding social inclusion of the internally displaced, as well as the provision of safe water and sanitation, would be addressed in greater detail in the country programme action plan. He expressed appreciation for the comments on the draft CPD for Turkey regarding disparities and noted the importance of youth as a key theme for UNICEF cooperation.

84. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/8 on the draft country programme documents and decision 2010/9 on the request by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to present a draft common country programme document to the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP (see the compendium of decisions E/ICEF/2010/14).

(b) Extensions of ongoing country programmes

85. In accordance with decision 2009/11 the Executive Board was informed of the extensions of 13 ongoing country programmes that were approved by the Executive Director. Those countries are: Albania, Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Oman, Peru, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine and Viet Nam. Further, the Executive Board was requested to approve extensions of six ongoing country programmes: the second consecutive one-year extensions of the country programmes for Chile and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the two-year extensions of the country programmes for Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sierra Leone.

86. The representative of Chile said that the joint working strategy developed by the United Nations system with the Government of Chile had gained even greater relevance following the earthquake and tsunami that struck Chile in February 2010. The extension of the country programme would ensure the continuity of ongoing programmes and help to implement the new national priorities for children following the disaster.

87. The representative of Pakistan endorsed the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan. His Government expressed appreciation for UNICEF support for child protection legislation and the establishment of a juvenile justice system and would welcome UNICEF input in setting up a viable system of data collection and monitoring of child-oriented initiatives as well as further

strengthening in several areas: children with disabilities, education for girls and marginalized children, and vocational skills. The Executive Board adopted decision 2010/10 (see the compendium of decisions E/ICEF/2010/14).

Oral report on the work of UNICEF in humanitarian situations

88. The Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Hilde Frafjord Johnson, presented the report, giving an overview of the scope of UNICEF humanitarian work, the changing environment, challenges faced by UNICEF in response, and ways of working with partners. The report included an update on UNICEF work in Haiti. The Deputy Executive Director described two major trends: an increase in natural disasters and protracted intra-State conflicts. Alongside these were major changes in the operating environment related to increased insecurity and complexity and the effects of climate change as a risk multiplier. These changes affected food insecurity and eroded the coping mechanisms of vulnerable communities. They require effective disaster risk reduction.

89. She noted that in response to the enormous humanitarian and protection challenges, it was crucial for UNICEF to strengthen approaches and partnerships, improve leadership and ensure sufficient capacity and predictability of funding. Noting that last year UNICEF responded to more than 230 emergencies in 90 countries, she stated that the Core Commitments for Children had been revised to include risk reduction and UNICEF humanitarian cluster responsibilities within the United Nations system framework. She reported that UNICEF faced significant funding gaps for emergency response and appealed to donors to continue to provide sustainable support through regular resources and thematic funding.

90. On Haiti, she noted that major challenges were providing water and sanitation to the displaced populations and child protection, while acute malnutrition and large outbreaks of diseases had been successfully contained. She acknowledged that recruitment of humanitarian staff remained a challenge.

91. The representative of Haiti thanked the international community for the support shown to her country. She noted that, with the rainy season, the situation remained difficult but the planning for national elections was going ahead.

92. Many delegations expressed their appreciation of the leadership role of UNICEF within the humanitarian cluster approach and also in improving the United Nations security risk management framework. Several encouraged UNICEF to make further progress on the common needs assessment in collaboration with United Nations agencies, particularly as it would provide guidance to donor response in emergency funding appeals. One delegation pointed to the tension between humanitarian response and development work for UNICEF while another supported the organization's approach as a continuum from preparedness to response and recovery to capacity-building.

93. Several delegations expressed concern regarding the lack of adequate funding for the humanitarian response, and urged UNICEF to give donors a better sense of its priorities in emergencies so that funding shortfalls and gaps could be addressed.

94. Many delegations commended UNICEF on its work in Haiti, noting the lessons learned in implementing the cluster approach there. One delegation was interested in learning more about the transition from emergency response to

development work in the country. Another delegation encouraged UNICEF to continue to mobilize francophone staff to serve in Haiti.

95. Responding to specific questions, the Deputy Executive Director explained that country programmes generally included emergency preparedness plans, so that only in certain larger-scale emergencies would extra funding be required through the UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund or through appeals to donors. In the large majority of cases, she said, UNICEF was managing the emergency response with its own resources. She stressed the importance of the continuum from preparedness to capacity development, noting, however, that oftentimes the complexity of the situation required parallel operations. Finally, stating that UNICEF was fully committed to the common needs assessment approach, she noted that the mainstreaming of UNICEF cluster responsibilities was now embedded in the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.

96. The Executive Director affirmed UNICEF commitment to strengthening partnerships to make the cluster system work and noted that there were management challenges in resourcing and staffing emergencies.

Special focus session on the role and work of National Committees for UNICEF

97. The Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Hilde Frafjord Johnson, gave a general introduction and historical overview of the role of National Committees for UNICEF. Presentations were given by Ms. Véronique Lönnerblad, Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees for UNICEF, who offered a global summary on the work of the National Committees worldwide. Mr. Ken Hayami, Executive Director of the Japan Committee for UNICEF, Mr. Stefán Stefánsson, Executive Director of the Icelandic Committee for UNICEF, Ms. Elsbeth Müller, Executive Director of the Swiss Committee for UNICEF, and Ms. Paloma Escudero, Executive Director of the Spanish Committee for UNICEF, described the experiences of their organizations and their relationship with the public in their countries.

98. Delegations welcomed the opportunity to have a dialogue with representatives of National Committees. They expressed appreciation for the creative approaches and diversity of the fundraising and advocacy activities of the Committees in industrialized countries. The crucial role of the Committees in supporting the appeal for increased core funding to UNICEF was also underlined.

99. In her closing remarks, the Deputy Executive Director reiterated the importance of the work of National Committees. She thanked the Chair of the Standing Group of National Committees for UNICEF and the National Committees for their support in accomplishing the mission and goals of the organization. The Executive Director added his words of appreciation for the work of the National Committees and for the quality of their dialogue with the organization.

Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

100. A discussion took place on the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly, on 25 May 2000, of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

101. The discussion aimed to ascertain how the Executive Board members could build on the 25 May commemoration and launch of the Campaign on the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which promotes universal ratification of the Protocols by 2012 and their full implementation. Following an introduction by the President, remarks were given by a panel of speakers. These included Mr. Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director, Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (whose remarks were delivered through a video recording), and Professor Yanghee Lee, Chairperson, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (whose remarks were delivered by Ms. Maggie Nicholson, Deputy Director, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights). Statements were presented by the delegations of Bangladesh, Italy, Slovenia, Tunisia and Uruguay describing the experiences of these countries in ratification and implementation of the Optional Protocols. This was followed by concluding remarks of the President.

D. Update on the organizational improvement initiatives (agenda item 6)

102. The Executive Board had before it the report (E/ICEF/2010/13), which was introduced by the Director, Change Management.

103. One delegation, expressing appreciation for the progress made by UNICEF said that organizational improvements should be conducted in an open, transparent and incremental manner. In this regard, UNICEF is encouraged to improve its exchange with Member States through various means and channels and inform Board members of progress made. UNICEF is encouraged to share more insights on related programmes such as the accountability framework, online recruitment and VISION (Virtual Integrated System of Information).

104. The Director, Change Management, said that UNICEF would maintain transparency, informing the Executive Board members and delegations on progress made in implementing the organizational improvement initiatives and on their impact. UNICEF would share the findings of an evaluation, planned for completion by 2012, of the roll-out and impact of the initiatives.

E. Reports of the field visits of the Executive Board (agenda item 7)

(a) Report of the joint field visit to Rwanda by members of the Executive Boards of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, 20-30 March 2010

105. The report (E/ICEF/2010/CRP.12) was introduced by Ms. Jonna Jeurlink, Advisor, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. On behalf of the delegation, Ms. Jeurlink expressed thanks to the Government of Rwanda and the United Nations country team for their warm welcome.

106. Ms. Jeurlink noted that the visit was well organized, and the discussions with many stakeholders had enabled the delegation to obtain a comprehensive view of the performance of the respective United Nations agencies. Rwanda had been chosen

because of it was a "delivering as one" pilot country and had undertaken several innovative development and humanitarian approaches. The country aimed to become middle-income by 2020. Rwanda showed a strong commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goals, which were firmly integrated in the national development frameworks. The country had made remarkable progress since the 1994 genocide — including the reduction of poverty from 52 per cent in 2008 to 42 per cent today — but still faced significant challenges. These included high maternal and under-five mortality rates and the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.

107. The delegation, she said, had been impressed by the performance of the United Nations country team and its implementation of delivering as one. It was recommended that the Executive Boards take the following three measures. First, ensure that the respective agencies strategically engage in areas of comparative advantage and further strengthen efforts to meet capacity needs. This will involve creating a clear "exit strategy" for Rwanda. Second, continue to call for the strengthening and harmonization of business practices to facilitate joint programming and impact on the ground. Third, further discuss how the agencies can continue to support South-South initiatives.

108. The representative of Rwanda thanked the delegation, the UNICEF secretariat, and the United Nations country team, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, for their support. He said that progress had been achieved due to a number of factors, key among them being a clarity of purpose and vision from the Government and the utilization of innovative, home-grown approaches to development, as outlined in the national Vision 2020. The Government counted on the partnership with the One United Nations team to meet and surpass the Millennium Development Goals. "One United Nations" was playing a vital role to support the Government in a number of areas: achieving gender equality and ending child, domestic and gender-based violence; reducing child mortality and improving child health; and ensuring quality and inclusive basic education.

(b) Report of the field visit to China by members of the Bureau of the Executive Board, 5-11 April 2010

109. The President of the Executive Board introduced the report (E/ICEF/2010/CRP.11). In their field visit to the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the members had visited several UNICEF projects in health and education and met with representatives from local governments and civil society. He reported that government counterparts expressed appreciation for UNICEF emergency response following the Sichuan earthquake and noted that the visit enabled the Bureau members to appreciate the strategic role UNICEF played in developing norms and standards through pilot projects in support of policy formulation. It was noted that China, as a significant participant of South-South cooperation, could be a role model for other developing countries. The President expressed the gratitude of the delegation to the Government of China for the opportunities for substantial dialogue with senior members of the Government, including the Ministry of Commerce, which plays the leading role in coordinating the programme of cooperation.

(c) Report of the field visit to Tajikistan by members of the Executive Board, 18-26 April 2010

110. The report (E/ICEF/2010/CRP.13) was presented by H.E. Mr. Andrei Dapkiunas, the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations and former President of the UNICEF Executive Board, who led the field visit. The Ambassador praised the Government and the UNICEF team led by the UNICEF Representative for the high quality of the visit. He lamented the fact that, for the first time in years, the delegation of the Executive Board for a field visit represented only three regional groups. Two groups, including the most respected and valued donor constituency, did not participate. He reported that the main impression of the delegation was that Tajikistan had been forgotten by donors. The country faced dire humanitarian and development challenges and required assistance on a much larger scale, carried out on a sustainable and long-term basis. The Executive Board delegation requested the Executive Director of UNICEF to consider enhancing the staffing and financial resources of the country office to place it on par with those in countries with similarly dire challenges.

111. The representative of Tajikistan thanked the delegations and UNICEF for the visit and significant dialogue that took place. He described some of the complex challenges faced by Tajikistan, including in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The representative thanked UNICEF and its partners for providing much-needed assistance, especially in ensuring access to education, safe drinking water and sanitation, and recommended that UNICEF strengthen cooperation in the promotion of quality education and gender equality as well as the strengthening of national capacity in these areas.

112. One delegation recommended that increased attention be paid to the recent outbreak of polio in Tajikistan, the rise in the number of HIV/AIDS cases resulting from drug injection, and educating adolescents on the dangers of drug use, a threat to the region's children.

F. Address by the Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association (agenda item 8)

113. The Chairperson of the UNICEF Global Staff Association reported on the first-ever global conference of UNICEF staff representatives in Istanbul in July 2009. The outcome of the meeting was a list of staff concerns, entitled "Eight levels of change", the addressing of which would greatly improve the lives of UNICEF staff. Among the key concerns for staff, she explained, were security and mobility, as well the need for clarification on the status of continuing contracts, an issue being discussed in the General Assembly.

G. Other matters (agenda item 9)

114. The secretariat shared with the Executive Board a list of provisional agenda items for the second regular session 2010.

H. Adoption of draft decisions (agenda item 10)

115. The Executive Board adopted decisions 2010/6 through 2010/10 (see the compendium of decisions E/ICEF/2010/14).

I. Closing statements by the Executive Director and the President (agenda item 11)

116. The Executive Director expressed appreciation for the support of Member States for the renewed focus of UNICEF on the bottom quintile and the forgotten children. He also welcomed the attention given to child protection, gender mainstreaming and children with disabilities. He said that the focus would be on achieving those Millennium Development Goals where progress was lagging, such as maternal mortality and sanitation. In these efforts it was essential to follow integrated approaches, including in the context of "delivering as one".

117. The Executive Director noted that in the Executive Board discussions three areas were emphasized: results, emergencies and resources. One of his immediate priorities, he said, was to speed up the strengthening of systems for monitoring and evaluation. UNICEF needed to be able to track how funds were allocated and resources used so that the organization could better set priorities and ascertain which interventions were the best and most cost-effective. Another key area was the collection and use of disaggregated data, which would help Governments to identify areas that required more attention. He said that UNICEF would try harder to report on results and value added, though this was sometimes difficult in the context of increasing work with a range of partners.

118. On emergencies, he said that he was struck by the alarming projections presented in the oral report on UNICEF humanitarian work and by the increasing effects of climate change regarding natural disasters. Noting that UNICEF currently spent between one quarter and one third of its budget on emergencies, he said that it was crucial for UNICEF and partners to continue to improve its work in humanitarian action. One solution was to make the cluster system more efficient. It was also essential for donors to respond sufficiently to emergency appeals in order to address the severe funding gaps. Otherwise, UNICEF would be forced to make difficult choices that could seriously undermine work on development priorities, such as fighting poverty and disease.

119. He thanked donors for their commitment to contributing to regular resources and other resources, giving UNICEF the flexibility to meet both emergencies and priorities in other areas. He noted that the presentations of the National Committees were inspiring, as was the responsiveness of the public. In closing, he emphasized that it was important to put a child's face on the drive to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially in a difficult economic climate.

120. The President congratulated everyone for the meaningful discussion, innovative recommendations and excellent results of the annual session. He stressed that the focus on child rights was essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and noted that the commemorative event on the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child had indicated that encouraging progress had been made towards achieving their universal ratification by 2012 and full implementation. Emphasizing the importance of gender to the work

of UNICEF, he said he was encouraged by the steps taken by UNICEF with its new policy on gender equality. The briefing on Haiti, he said, reminded all that disasters and conflicts disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and called upon Member States to commit more resources for humanitarian action. He noted that the special focus session on the National Committees for UNICEF had demonstrated the significant results achieved through closer collaboration with civil society. He also welcomed the commitment of UNICEF to strengthening partnerships and to United Nations system-wide coherence as well as the cluster approach. Recalling that as a child he, too, had been a beneficiary of a UNICEF programme, he urged the delegations to continue to ensure that sustainable progress improved the lives of all children.